

## HEALTH ADVISORY: UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19 May 11, 2020

### Background

The United States and Texas are experiencing ongoing community transmission of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19. This advisory provides guidance for healthcare providers on testing criteria and disease reporting.

### COVID-19 Testing Criteria

Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Asymptomatic infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been reported. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever<sup>1</sup> and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) but some people may present with other symptoms as well. Clinicians are encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness.

**No symptoms are required for testing.** If testing capacity is limited, then prioritize based on guidance by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), "**Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**," issued May 4, 2020, and linked [here](#).

### Reporting of Cases:

COVID-19 is a notifiable condition under Texas statute. All suspected and confirmed cases are to be [called immediately](#) to the local health department. In addition, please submit lab results, demographics, and clinical progress notes via fax to:

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
Epidemiology Program  
Phone: (210) 207-8876 (24 hours)  
Fax: (210) 207-8807